



Europe's Human Security Concerns in Central Asia

Wednesday 16 November 2011

Deutscher Bundestag, Jakob-Kaiser-Haus (Raum 1.554), Dorotheenstr. 101, 10117 Berlin

A seminar organised by the Open Society Foundation's Central Eurasia Project (CEP) and FRIDE's Europe Central Asia Monitoring (EUCAM) programme

The aim of this seminar is to:

- Investigate new ways in which Europe can contribute to human security through good governance, rule of law and security sector reform in Central Asia;
- To assess progress made by the European Union in promoting aspects of human security over the last five years through the EU Strategy for Central Asia;
- To discuss Germany's position and activities as an essential part of the EU's approach to the region and in light of events in neighbouring Afghanistan.

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11.00 – 11.15 **Registration**

11.15 – 11.30 **Words of welcome**

- *Alain Déléroz*, Vice President (Europe), International Crisis Group, member of the Advisory Board of the Central Eurasia Project and member EUCAM Advisory Group, Brussels

11.30 – 13.00

Session I: Pursuing normative policies in unfavourable conditions

Chair and introduction:

- **Anthony Richter**, Associate Director, Open Society Foundations, New York

Panel:

- **Jörn Grävingholt**, Senior Researcher, German Development Institute, Bonn
- **Neil Melvin**, Director, Armed Conflict Programme, SIPRI and member EUCAM Advisory Group, Stockholm

The Arab Spring has brought about discussion on EU democracy support and reignited a debate about the merits of supporting authoritarian regimes for the sake of stability. In Central Asia, the EU faces a similar dilemma which puts its interests in stability and security against values of democracy and human rights. But are these goals mutually exclusive? This framing session will look into human security as a potential basis for EU engagement which can incorporate democracy support, human rights, rule of law, good governance as well as modalities of EU assistance to governments and societies.

13.00 – 14.00

Lunch

14.00 – 15.30

Session II: Rule of law as an essential ingredient of human security

Chair and introduction:

- **Jacqueline Hale**, Senior Policy Analyst, EU External Relations, Open Society Institute, Brussels

Panel:

- **Christine Weil**, Head of Southern Caucasus and Central Asia Division, German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Berlin
- **Raphael Fisera**, Human Rights Officer, Central Asia Division, European External Action Service, Brussels
- **Thomas Markert**, Director, Secretary General of the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg
- **Zuhra Halimova**, Executive Director, Open Society Assistance Foundation, Dushanbe

All five Central Asian states are weak in terms of rule of law, good governance and democracy. Since 2007 the EU has devoted special attention to the rule of law with its proposed regional Rule of Law Initiative. Now it will set up a Rule of Law Platform to give this initiative more substance. This session evaluates progress in developing the Initiative and assesses what action could be taken to make a real impact on Central Asia's rule of law track-record.

15.30 – 16.00 Coffee break

16.00 – 17.45 **Session III: Security sector reform and governance: Options for European engagement in Central Asia**

Chair and introduction:

- **Cornelius Graubner**, Program Officer, Central Eurasia Project, Open Society Foundations, New York

Panel:

- **Jos Boonstra**, Senior Researcher, FRIDE, Head of the EUCAM Programme, Brussels
- **Richard Lewington**, Former British Ambassador to Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan; Former Chief Technical Adviser to the EU Border Management Programme in Central Asia (EU BOMCA/CADAP), Gori
- **Kumar Bekbolotov**, Executive Director, Soros Foundation Kyrgyzstan, Bishkek
- **Alexander Cooley**, Tow Professor of Political Science, Columbia University, New York

Central Asia faces a broad range of security challenges. On a national level the five republics face the threat of instability due to bad governance. Whereas Central Asian authorities are likely to show little interest in SSR it is a crucial aspect of human security, especially in light of the drawdown of international forces from Afghanistan and corresponding efforts to increase trade along a new Silk Road. Inefficient, non-democratically organised and often repressive security services (armed forces, para-military forces, police, border guards, intelligence services but also the power ministries and controlling mechanisms such as the parliament, judiciary, audit chamber, etc.) are a risk to the stability of the republics and the well-being of their citizens. This session assesses in what aspects of security sector reform and governance the EU is engaged with Central Asia and if there are options for the EU and its member states to step up activity in this field.

17.45 – 18.00 **Closing words:**

- **Cristina Manzano**, Deputy Director General, FRIDE, Madrid